

HB 756 -- PRISONER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Hubbard

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill establishes within the Department of Corrections a prisoner re-entry program for offenders relocating to the City of St. Louis after release. The bill:

- (1) Requires the program to be only for an offender who has served his or her full sentence without early release;
- (2) Requires the city to be responsible for issuing a request for proposals to organizations with demonstrated experience in providing re-entry services, including facilitating connections to providers of housing and employment services and physical health, mental health, substance abuse, and other social services; and
- (3) Authorizes the department director to enter into contracts for the implementation of the program.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will reduce recidivism among those who have served straight time and will reduce the homeless rate in St. Louis.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hubbard; William Siedhoff, Department of Human Services, City of St Louis; and City of St. Louis.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.